A REVIEW OF THE STATE OF THE BRITISH NATION.

VOL. VI.

LONDON:

Printed in the Year. MDCCIX.

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PREFACE.

I Am come now to the Conclusion of the Sixth Volume of this Work; tho' like a teeming Woman, I have thought every Volume should be the last——Where it will end now, and when, God only knows, and Time only will discover; *as for me*, I know nothing of it.

This particular Paper, tho' written at the End of the Work, carries the Title of the Preface, more because it is placed by the Bookseller at the Frontispiece, than that it is any thing of an Introduction to the Volume; for it is really written at the Close of the Whole, and its Subject very particular.

We have had a most distracting turbulent Time for the last two Months of this Year, occasion'd by the Prosecution and Defence of a *High-Flying* Clergy-man, who has undertaken, *in the Teeth* of the very Parliament, *as well as of the Nation*, to justifie and defend the exploded ridiculous Doctrine of *Non-Resistance*.

This Defence has been carry'd on with all possible Heat, Fury, and Violence among the Party; and a strong Conjunction of *Papist*, *Jacobite*, and *High-Church* mad Men has appear'd in it, which has made them seem very formidable to the World—— Rabbles, Tumults, plundering Houses, demolishing Meeting-houses, insulting Gentlemen in the Streets, and honest Men in their Dwellings, has been the necessary Appendices of this Affair. And, *after all I must own*, tho' the Man has been condemn'd, his Principles censur'd, and his Sermon burnt; yet it has not been without most fatal Consequences over the whole Nation, *as it has* reviv'd the Heats, Feuds and Animosities which were among

us, and which by the bleſſed Example and Exhortation of her Majeſty, began to be laid aſleep in the Nation.

I have been endeavouring to ſhew you the Miſchief of theſe Tumults, the bloody Deſign of the Perſons that have rais'd them, and how they have differ'd from all that went before them. I have given you Inſtances of their moſt villainous Deſigns; ſuch as firing the Bank, demoliſhing all the Meeting-houſes, and murthering the Miniſters, all which they openly profeſs'd to be their Deſign; *God deliver this Nation from the pernicious Effects of the preſent Fermentation, which we are now generally in on all ſides.*

I have however faithfully diſcharg'd what I thought my ſelf oblig'd to, as a Debt to Peace, and in Duty to the preſent Conſtitution, *to ſpeak plainly* in theſe Caſes, whatever Riſque I run, and at whatever Hazard theſe Truths are to be told: I have not been afraid to bear my Teſtimony, as ſome call it, to the Liberties of *Britain*, againſt the reviving Miſchiefs of Tyranny, and have in the midſt of all your Mobbs and Rabbles openly declar'd *Non-Reſiſtance* to be damn'd by Parliament, and *Engliſh* (*now Britiſh*) Liberty to be built upon the Foundation of the Claim of Right, and of the Revolution; of which the Proteſtant Succeſſion, *which ſets by the more immediate Heirs*, is the great Exemplification: The Great King *William* was the Re-edifyer of the Building; the Collective Body of the People were the great and happy Original; and the Union is the Top ſtone.

I am none of thoſe that boaſt of their Adventures, and love to tell long Stories of the Dangers they run—— I am not always to be frighted with threatning Letters and Shams of Aſſaſſination; I ever thought thoſe People that talk ſo much of killing Folks, never do it——, Tho' I am none of thoſe you call fighting Fellows, yet I am none of thoſe that are afraid to ſee themſelves die, and I may, I hope, *without being tax'd with Vanity*, profeſs not to practiſe *Non-Reſiſtance*.

I have by me about 15 Letters, from Gentlemen of more Anger than Honour, who have faithfully promis'd me to come and kill me

me by ſuch and ſuch a Day; nay, and ſome have deſcended to tell me the very Manner, yet not one of them has been ſo good as his Word: Once I had the Misfortune to come into a Room, where five Gentlemen had been killing me a Quarter of an Hour, *in their Way*—and yet to the Reproach of their villainous Deſign, as well as their Courage, durſt not all together own it to a poor naked ſingle Man, that gave them Opportunity enough, and whom they had too much in their Power.

In ſhort, I here give my Teſtimony from my own Experience, and I note it for the Inſtruction of the *Five Aſſaſſins above*, that their Cauſe is villainous, and that makes the Party cowardly; a Man that has any Honour in him, is really put to more Difficulty how to ſpeak, than how to act; in the Caſe of Murthers and Aſſaſſination, *he is ſtreightned*, between the Extremes of ſhewing too much Courage, or too much Fear.

Should I tell the World the repeated Cautions given me by Friends, not to appear, not to walk the Streets, not to ſhow my ſelf——*Letters ſent me*, to bid me remember Sir *Edmund-Bury Godfrey*, *John Tutchin*, and the like; I muſt talk my ſelf up for a mad Man that dares go abroad——Should I let you know, how *I* have been three Times beſet, and Way laid for the Miſchief deſign'd, but that ſtill I live, you would wonder what I mean.

For my part, I firmly believe, the Villains that inſulted honeſt *Sutherland*'s Houſe, robb'd and frighted his Wife, and with naked Swords bully'd the poor Woman, threatning that they would murther her Husband whenever they met him; knew well enough he was not at home, and never will meet him when he is.

Wherefore, my brief Reſolution is this; 1. While I live, they may be aſſur'd, I ſhall never deſiſt doing my Duty, in expoſing the Doctrines that oppoſe GOD and the Revolution; ſuch as Paſſive-Submiſſion to Tyrants, and Non-Reſiſtance in Caſes of Oppreſſion; if the Gentlemen, being at a Loſs for Arguments, are

are resolv'd *to better their Cause* by Violence and Blood, I leave the Issue to GOD's Providence, and must do as well with them as I can.

As to Defence, I have had some Thoughts to stay at Home in the Night, and by Day to wear a Piece of Armour on my Back. The *first*, because I am perswaded, these Murtherers will not do their Work by *Day-light*; and the *second*, because I firmly believe, they will never attempt it so fairly, TO MY FACE, as to give Occasion of Armour any where else.

I confess, there may be some Reasons for me to apprehend this wicked Party, and therefore as I thank GOD, I am without a disturbing Fear, so I am not perfectly secure, or without Caution. The Reasons are such as these.

1. That truly Assassination and Murther is something more suitable to the *High-Flying* Cause, and has been more in Use among their Party, than in other Cases, and with other People—'Tis the Cause of Tyranny, and Tyranny always leads to Blood; Oppression goes hand-in-hand with Violence; and he that would invade my Liberty, will invade my Life, as he has Opportunity; and had their Rabble got a little more Head, we might have come again into the laudable Practice of cutting of Throats, and cold Blood Murthers—And by the same Rule, their Downfall being so apparent, this desperate Cure may be thought needful to their desperate Cause.

But I cannot see, why they should be so exasperated *at the poor Review*, a sorry despis'd Author, to use the Words *of one of their Party*, who no Body gives heed to.

Well, Gentlemen, then let your Anger be pointed at some more significant Animal, that is more capable to wound you, and do not own this Author to be so considerable as to engage your Resentment, lest you prove the unanswerable Force of what he says by

by the Concern you are at to suppress him——— What will the World say to this Way of Dealing? You should first answer the Argument, that's the best Way of murthering the Author; to kill him first, is to own you could not answer him; if your Doctrine of *Non-Resistance* will subsist, if it will uphold it self, you have Advantage enough; Writing against it will be of no Force, even the *House* of *Commons* must fall before it, *for Truth will prevail:* But if not, if this Author, and All that open their Mouths against it, were to be sacrifiz'd by your impious Hands, *Truth* would never want Champions to defend it against this absurd Error——— And killing the *Reply* would be like cutting off the Monster's Head, when a Hundred rise up in the Room of it.

Upon these Accounts I go on perfectly easie; as to the present Threats I daily meet with from this cowardly and abominable Party——If I am attack'd by Multitude, I must fall, *as Abner fell before wicked Men*——— If I am fairly and honourably attack'd, I hope, I shall fairly RESIST; for I shall never practise the Notion I condemn, and every honest Man ought to go prepar'd for a Villain.

This, tho' it is irksome to me to say, and no Man that fights loves to talk of it; yet I thought it proper for me to let you all see, that I have my Share of this *High-Church* Mob— And that whatever may happen to me, the World may know whence it comes.

I might, and ought indeed to speak a Word or two to three Gentlemen, besides those mention'd before, who have been pleas'd personally to threaten my Life—with Abundance of Preambles and Justification of themselves about it—What I shall say to them is—I shall demonstrate my being perfectly unconcern'd at the Matter, by refusing the Advice given me, even by their own Friends, *of binding them to the Peace*; it seems a little unnatural to me, and what I shall never practise, to go to Law with a Man for beating me, much less for threatning me———And least of all, when the Persons are such harmless Creatures as these———

Wherefore

Wherefore, all the Answer I shall give them is this, with the utmost Contempt of their Folly——

The Cur that barks is not the Cur that bites.

These Things regard particular Men, and I know, the Persons will understand me when they read it—— I assure you, it is in Courtesie to them that I bury their Folly, by concealing their Names.

Upon the Whole, as I am going on in what I esteem my Duty, and for the publick Good, I firmly believe, it will not please GOD to deliver me up to this bloody and ungodly Party; and therefore I go on freely in what is before me, and shall still go on to detect and expose a vicious Clergy, and a bigotted Race of the People, in order to reclaim and reform them, or to open the Eyes of the good People of *Britain*, that they may not be impos'd upon by them; and whether in this Work I meet with Punishment or Praise, Safety or Hazard, Life or Death,

TE DEUM LAUDAMUS.

Your Humble Servant,

D. F.